

February 18, 2006

Mr. Fulton J. Sheen  
N1192 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Mr. Sheen:

We are trying to farm 32 acres next to a large CAFO located on the North Branch Black River watershed in Ganges Township, Allegan County. I am appalled by the package of bills espoused by the Michigan Farm Bureau and introduced in the state legislature further protecting factory farms in this state (HB7711-5716). These encourage less oversight and chance of enforcement than currently extant. Please vote this package of bills down on Feb. 22, 2006.

Industrial Animal Factories are driving family farmers out of business, poisoning our rural air, and dumping untold gallons of toxic animal waste into Michigan's waterways and watersheds, AND are protected under Michigan's flawed "Right to Farm Act" revision of 1999.

The Right to Farm Act, PA 93 of 1981 was a positive response to a functional problem. The industrialization of this Act in 1999 was truly an abomination, and began a rapid decline in the standard of living for everyone in this state. The major effort now seems to be promoting the preservation and proliferation of the most polluting, heavily subsidized and least regulated industry that we currently have.

I know that Michigan's economy is in the doldrums and that we need a stable industrial base...BUT AT WHAT COST! Please think of our future! Please oppose this entire package of bills. Agribusiness in Michigan needs more regulation, not less.

Sincerely,

Robert and Dawn Soltysiak  
Fernwood Farm  
6322 113<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Fennville, MI 49408  
Rsolty@ispwest.com

cc: Ms. Patricia Birkholz  
Ms. Dianne Byrum  
Mr. Craig De Roche